



VOICE & VISION OF VAPT

NOVEMBER 2003

EDITOR: BILL CARR

A Message from Our President, Barbara Goodman...



Isabel took care of September. Now, here we are looking at the end of the year, 2003. Once again, we find ourselves saying, "Where did the time go?" Unless you have a plan, it's easy for the time to get away from you. When I talk with my friends in Transportation I hear many of them say, "I really want to do this or that, but there just are not enough hours in the day."

Which brings me to my point. VAPT wants to be responsive to its members. We are reaching a milestone in our history where we will be able to undertake a few projects. These projects may be joint efforts between VAPT and DOE or may be VAPT-only. But, we have to plan for them. We don't want the "time to get away from us."

One of the projects I am hopeful will be ready by the June conference is a document with guidelines for selecting charter bus service. Harold Grimes has agreed to help with this project and once it is ready, it will be distributed to each Transportation Office.

Are there projects you would like to see VAPT undertake? When you attend a regional meeting, please share your ideas. Let the VAPT Regional Director or committee members hear your ideas. Pass them on so the VAPT Board can discuss and plan for certain projects.

Also, think about conference topics or sessions you believe will be beneficial to you as a director, supervisor, trainer, or technician. After all, this is YOUR organization, not just mine or the VAPT Board's and we want to plan for your needs. But, to do this you need to inform us of your ideas or suggestions.

In the meantime, have a happy and safe Thanksgiving and I hope you enjoy quality time with your family.

Barbara

MEET STEVE
WASHINGTON,
REGION II
DIRECTOR



Steve was born and raised in Hampton, Virginia. He attended Southern Illinois University after graduating from the Hampton School Division and later served in the U.S. Army. Steve returned to Hampton City Public Schools as an In-school Suspension Coordinator before becoming the Assistant Supervisor of Transportation. Several years later he was promoted to Director of Transportation in Hampton. Steve has worked in the Hampton school division for 22 years. He has always played all kinds of sports, in particular football, basketball and tennis while in high school and continued playing football at Southern Illinois University. He served as an assistant football coach at Hampton High School for five years. Although Steve's hobbies are many, one of his favorite pastimes is riding his Yamaha Roadster motorcycle on a cool sunny day – feeling the wind in his face. He is proud to be an active member of VAPT and enjoys the friendships he has made in this professional organization.

Steve's email address: swashington@sbo.hampton.k12.va.us

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF PUPIL
TRANSPORTATION (NASDPTS)**
(CLEAN SCHOOL BUS USA – GRANTS)

A letter was sent to the United States Senate Energy Committee supporting the creation of a Federal grant program. This program would provide funding to replace or retrofit older model school buses.

Representatives from the three national organizations that represent the school transportation industry – the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation, the National Association for Pupil Transportation and the National School Transportation Association – worked together to draft this joint letter of support. Everyone agreed that these Federal funds would make it possible to purchase new school buses, or retrofit existing school buses, in an economy that makes it difficult for states, school districts and school bus contractors to do so without these funds. Although the primary intent of this program is to improve the emissions performance of school buses, there are many notable additional benefits, including the purchase of newer school buses with the latest safety equipment, and the replacement of older, less efficient diesel-powered buses.

The grant program would provide a grand total of \$450 million, allocated over three years, to replace school buses manufactured in or before 1991, or to retrofit school buses built after 1991. Grant requests to replace buses manufactured before 1977 would receive priority consideration.

Last year Congress considered a similar proposal that would have created a Federal grant program to support the purchase of cleaner fuel school buses. That plan initially only allowed for the purchase of alternative fuel school buses, but was then modified to allow for 25% funding for the purchase of clean diesel school buses. Last year's proposal gained significant support from some very influential members of Congress, but did not move forward because Congress was unable to reach agreement on the overall Energy Bill.

This year's version of the Clean School Bus plan is notably different. Extensive conversations among the school bus industry and alternative fuel and clean air advocates have lead to a compromise plan that increases the allocation of grant funds for clean diesel from 25% to 35% of the available funds, with the remaining 65% for alternative fuel school buses. The proposal also includes language that allows for additional spending for clean diesel vehicles in the event that grant applications for alternative fuel use to not reach 65% of the available monies.

As with all legislation, the language in this proposed bill represents a compromise. Other significant interests have made a strong case for a high spending level on alternative fuels. In recognition of the fact that there are barriers to the use of these alternative fuels in many areas, the bill allows for an increased percentage of spending for clean diesel fuel engines. Most notably, however, the compromise encourages the Senate to permit the Environmental Protection Agency to help administer the grant program.

This would enable EPA to bring to bear their expertise in energy technology and emission controls and assure that the grant program is well aligned with EPS's "Clean School Bus USA" program to replace or retrofit older school buses. The compromise also encourages the Senate to permit states, school districts and school bus contractors to submit grant applications reasoning that these entities will be in the best position to determine which technology, and which technology, and which emissions reduction approach, serves them best. They could request funding to replace older school buses with an alternative fuel school bus or an ultra-low sulfur diesel school bus, or alternatively to upgrade newer models with state-of-the-art emission control retrofit technologies. This combination of grant requests and EPA's management provides for a scenario where the ultimate decision as to what type of engine (fuel) technology will be utilized will be made by our industry.

There is still much work to be done to ensure this proposed bill gets enacted and signed into law.

In the interest of clear communication with NASDPTS' sister organizations, a team to monitor the progress of this bill, and to coordinate activities related to it. They will continue to work together and coordinate with representatives from the National Association of Pupil Transportation (NAPT), National School Transportation Association (NSTA) and other parties involved with this project.

NASDPTS' phone number is 1-800-585-0340.

WISDOM:

What you do for others you are doing for yourself.

<<< IN MEMORY OF LARRY GARLAND >>>

Bob Cere, Suffolk Public Schools transportation Supervisor, called to inform us Larry recently died from a massive heart attack. Those folks who knew Larry will miss him and remember him as a kind, hard working person. He was the Supervisor of Transportation for the Suffolk City Public Schools for a number of years.

EPA STANDARDS SUMMARY

1994 – engines built to reduce particulate (dust, soot) releases by 90 percent

2006 – diesel fuel will contain significantly less sulfur content. (EPA will require a 97 percent reduction in the sulfur content of highway diesel fuel from its current level of 500 parts per million to 15 parts per million)

2007 – new generation of diesel engines

STATISTICS FROM JANICE BAXTER IN NEWPORT NEWS

While recently doing research for an upcoming recertification class I came across some astounding facts. In the United States there are approximately 440,000 school buses transporting approximately 24,000,000 children a day, with an average of 6 deaths per year. That is truly amazing! I think it is important for every school bus driver to know they are a part of a huge organization with the best safety record on earth, bar none!

NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

* Recommended specifications for displaying decals of the American flag on school buses:

The General Assembly passed legislation during the 2003 session concerning the display of flags on school buses. Section 22.1-177 of the Code of Virginia was amended to include the following: “Local school boards may, notwithstanding any regulation to the contrary, display decals depicting the flag of the United States on the sides and rear of school buses as long as any such decal does not obstruct the name of the school division or the number of the school bus and is no larger than 100 square inches.” The Department of Education with the assistance from school divisions developed recommendations on the size and location of flags on school buses.

* Job Announcement:

Transportation Specialist (General Administration Coordinator II)

The position’s salary is commensurate with experience.

Minimum: \$34,910

Maximum: \$71,646

The Virginia Department of Education is seeking a qualified individual to provide training as required for driver trainers and re-certification of driver trainers in Virginia and to conduct assessments of school bus fleets. Responsibilities include monitoring federal legislation and regulations related to transporting special needs children.

CANDIDATES MUST PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- Considerable knowledge of federal and state laws and regulations governing pupil transportation to include training requirements and materials available. Knowledge of fleet assessment, preventive maintenance, data collection, and research methods.
- Skills in effectively communicating, both orally and in writing.
- Ability to review and revise curriculum as required and produce written reports. Demonstrated ability to analyze and prepare technical reports and to use computer technology for trend analyses.
- Experience in providing training and speaking before groups. Experience in management of transportation programs.
- A Commercial Driver's License or a commitment to obtain one when employed in the position is required.
- A bachelor's degree in safety education, education administration and supervisor or related field, or equivalent combination of education and extensive experience is required.

Please limit entire application package to a maximum of five pages total. Submit State Application Form #10-012 to: Virginia Department of Education, Office of Human Resources, P. O. Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120. Review of applications will begin **November 17, 2003**. For assistance call: (804) 225-2021, TTY: 786-8389, FAX: 786-8518 or visit our web site at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us>

The Virginia Department of Education is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages diversity within its workforce.

* School Bus Specifications: The approved specifications will be posted on the web site <http://www.pen.k12.va.us> on October 26, 2003. We want to thank the specifications committee and everyone else who provided input into this process. Those of you who sent letters, you will be receiving a response from this office within the next few weeks. Please remember that with the new regulations that are currently in the Governor's office for approval, specifications will be updated each year.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY COORDINATION CENTER (TSCC)

The President of the National Association of State Director of Pupil Transportation Services received a message from the Transportation Security Administration asking that the phone number for TSCC be distributed as widely as possible. The number is **703-563-3237**.

TSCC handles all transportation security incident reporting. Please use it as one of your first points of contact when reporting a transportation security incident.

Additionally, you should report any transportation security incident to your state Homeland Security organization. A state-by-state list can be found on the US Department of Homeland Security's website – http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0291.xml.

TRANSPORTATION DIRECTORS REGION II MEETING

Submitted by: Steve Washington, Newport News

The Region II Director's meeting was held October 7th and was hosted by Randall Pigley of Williamsburg-James City County School Division.

The meeting was well attended and several topics of interest were discussed. Mike Waltrip gave an update on State school bus specifications. June Eanes also attended and presented many interesting topics that are currently being addressed by VDOE including the Annual State Report.

John Hazelette asked for input regarding the agenda for the VDOE/VAPT Conference.

The meeting was most informative and extremely relevant to the operations of pupil transportation.

ANSWERING THE CALL OF DUTY

Greg Sutton, the newly appointed Director of Transportation in Arlington County, was called up for active duty for the last 6 months. Fortunately, he just reported to the Pentagon, a few blocks from his regular office in Arlington. During his absence, Tom Newman, the recently retired Director of Transportation was recalled to fill the gap in Transportation. We are glad Greg is back and appreciate his service. We are also glad we got to share time again with Tom. But, Tom don't you get too comfortable in your retirement as we hear Greg could get called back next year.

NEWS FROM HANOVER COUNTY....

On Monday, November 3, 2003, Hanover County Public Schools in conjunction with the Hanover County Sheriff's Department presented a terrorist demonstration to school bus drivers, principals, and administrators. Organized by Mitzi Crosier, Director of Transportation, Lt. Richard Farmer, Hanover County Youth Services Coordinator, William Sadler, Hanover County Crisis Management Team, and Dr. Tony Valentino, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services, the mock demonstration was a success.

The Hanover County S.W.A.T. Team presented a situation where a terrorist hijacked a school bus with passengers (passengers being school bus drivers, principals, athletic directors, transportation employees, and school board administrations). The hijacker was armed and made demands of the driver and passengers. Negotiations with the terrorist failed, therefore, a critical mass resolution of a hostage situation developed.

S.W.A.T. members charged the school bus after a sniper had "taken care of" the terrorists. There was smoke, explosions, and an actual takeover of the school bus and its passengers.

After the demonstration, a debriefing was held to discuss the steps in resolving possible terrorists and/or hijacking situations. The S.W.A.T. Team will perform the demonstration to all Hanover County school bus drivers at the next in-service/safety meeting. It was a remarkable learning situation for everyone.

What's New on the VAPT Web Site?
www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Finance/VAPT/

-Check it out-

2003-2004 VAPT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

OFFICERS:

President – Dr. Barbara Goodman, Chesterfield County
Vice President – Velera Gammons, Henry County
Secretary – June Eanes, VDOE
Treasurer – Willie Smith, Albemarle County
Immediate Past President – John Hazelette, Norfolk City

DIRECTORS:

Region 1 – James Tucker, Richmond City 1st year
Region 2 – Steve Washington, Hampton City, 2nd year
Region 3 – Kermit Shaffer, Spotsylvania County, 1st year
Region 4 – James Day, Manassas City, 1st year
Region 5 – Barbara Scott, Campbell County, 2nd year
Region 6 – Rebecca Mummau, Montgomery County, 2nd year
Region 7 – Michael Puckett, Russell County, 2nd year
Region 8 – unfilled

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Audit – Mitzi Crosier, Hanover County
Conference – Velera Gammons, Henry County
John Hazelette, Norfolk City
Constitution & Bylaws – Tim Parker, Fairfax County
Legislative – Harold Grimes, Henrico County
Membership – unfilled
Nominating – Dennis Lewis, Chesterfield County
Resolution – Michael Ashby, King William County
Scholarship – David Pace, Virginia Beach City

SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Poster Contest – Margaret Rayner, Hopewell City
Position Papers – Michael Ashby, King William County
Newsletter – Bill Carr, Virginia Beach City
Web Site – Tim Parker, Fairfax County
Historian – Dwight Elam, Mecklenburg County
Charter Bus Service – Harold Grimes, Henrico County
James Lash, York County
Budget Preparation – Frank Labrecque, Newport News City

ISSUE OF THE MONTH:

Ways to cover school bus runs when a substitute driver or driver assistant is not available?

Please send your response to Bill Carr, Editor, at bcarr@vbcps.k12.va.us. He will gladly share your responses in a future newsletter. Hopefully, members will benefit from the procedures used in various school divisions in dealing with this nationwide problem.

WATCH THE NEWS -

Check out the CBS News Story on Lap/Shoulder Belts on School Buses from Wednesday Morning "The Early Show."

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/11/04/earlyshow/contributors/tracysmith/main581863.shtml>

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD VIRGINIA SCHOOL BUSES

ROANOKE COUNTY



AUGUSTA COUNTY

WORDS OF WISDOM

Treat others as you want them to treat you.